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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

David William THOMSON et al.

Confirmation No.: 2204

Application No.: 10/719,232

Group Art Unit: 3754

Filing Date: November 20, 2003

Examiner: Patrick M. Beuchner

For: TAMPER-EVIDENT DEVICE

Attorney Docket No.: 85170-4900

REQUEST FOR CORRECTION OF FILING RECEIPT

Office of Initial Patent Examination

Customer Service Center

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

A Filing Receipt for the above-identified application has been received and the following correction is respectfully requested.

At “**Domestic Priority data as claimed by applicant**”, change
“PCT/GB02/03404” to -- **PCT/GB02/02404** --.

The present application is a continuation of International application no. PCT/GB02/02404 filed May 22, 2002. It has been discovered that a typographical error was made in the International application number on the signed Declaration filed March 5, 2004 in response to the missing parts requirement. The correct International application number is, however, indicated in the first paragraph of page 1 of the specification.

A copy of the Filing Receipt is enclosed with the requested change noted thereon. A copy of the Declaration is also enclosed on which applicants' legal representative has made and initialed the change to the International application number. In support of this change, a copy of page 1 of the specification and the title page of the corresponding International application are enclosed.

No fee is believed to be due for this submission. Should any fees be required, however, please charge such fees to Winston & Strawn LLP Deposit Account No. 50-1814.

Respectfully submitted,

7/29/04
Date

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212-294-3311



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 WASHINGTON, DC 20005-3502



CONFIRMATION NO. 2204

UPDATED FILING RECEIPT



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Date Mailed: 03/31/2004

Receipt is acknowledged of this regular Patent Application. It will be considered in its order and you will be notified as to the results of the examination. Be sure to provide the U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER, FILING DATE, NAME OF APPLICANT, and TITLE OF INVENTION when inquiring about this application. Fees transmitted by check or draft are subject to collection. Please verify the accuracy of the data presented on this receipt. If an error is noted on this Filing Receipt, please write to the Office of Initial Patent Examination's Filing Receipt Corrections, facsimile number 703-746-9195. Please provide a copy of this Filing Receipt with the changes noted thereon. If you received a "Notice to File Missing Parts" for this application, please submit any corrections to this Filing Receipt with your reply to the Notice. When the USPTO processes the reply to the Notice, the USPTO will generate another Filing Receipt incorporating the requested corrections (if appropriate).

Applicant(s)

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Domestic Priority data as claimed by applicant

This application is a CON of PCT/GB02/03404 05/22/2002

PCT/GB02/02404

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If Required, Foreign Filing License Granted: 02/20/2004

Projected Publication Date: 07/08/2004

Non-Publication Request: No

Early Publication Request: No

Title

Tamper-evident device

Preliminary Class

215

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Title 35, United States Code, Section 184
Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, 5.11 & 5.15**

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TAMPER-EVIDENT DEVICE

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of International application PCT/GB02/02404
5 filed May 22, 2002, the entire content of which is expressly incorporated herein by
reference thereto.

FIELD OF INVENTION

The present invention relates to a tamper-evident device or a closure assembly
10 adapted to be applied to a mouth of a container, for example, a neck of a bottle. The
invention particularly, though not exclusively, relates to a tamper-evident non-refillable
snap-on fitment.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

15 For various reasons, it may be desirable to ensure that a used container, such as a
bottle intended to contain a liquid (e.g., spirits such as alcoholic beverages), is not re-filled
with a replacement quantity of another liquid, the characteristics and quality of which may
differ from the original contents. Attempts to provide closures which make such re-filling
difficult are not always proof against determined tampering. While it is considered
20 advantageous to provide a tamper-indicating means which provides evidence that the bottle
and its original contents are intact, if the bottle is resealable with a substitute cap or closure,
there may be little to indicate to a purchaser that the bottle has been tampered with and that
the contents may be inferior to the original contents.

It has, therefore, been found desirable to provide a closure which cannot be removed
25 without an extreme level of effort, or breakage being caused to the bottle. Such an
arrangement is shown, for example, in GB Patent application No 2 274 837 also by the
present applicant, selected merely by way of illustration.

While it is very important that an original closure cannot be removed without visible
damage or breakage being caused either to the closure and/or to the bottle, it has been found
30 that a closure that cannot readily be removed will become the target of attempts to re-fill the
container by overcoming the feature provided in the closure intended to hinder or prevent
such refilling. Therefore, in addition to providing devices to prevent re-filling of bottles,
there is a need to provide such devices with further tamper-indicating features which, while
not acting in any preventive role, give a clear irremovable and/or irreversible indication that

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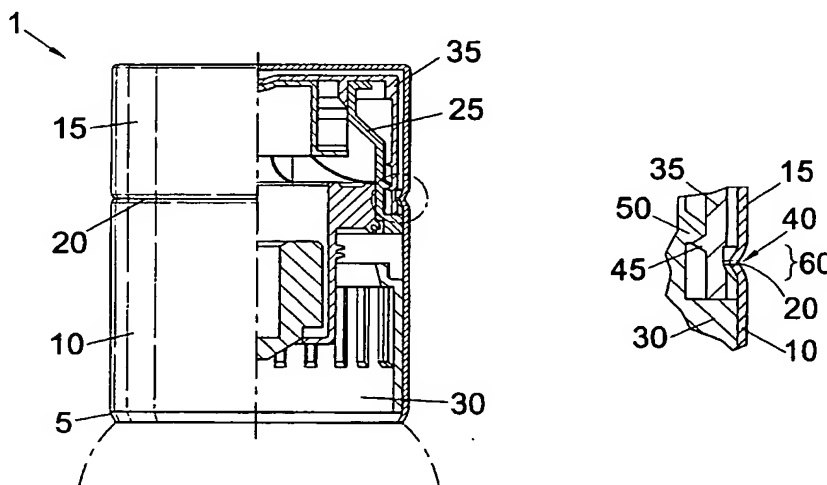
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: TAMPER-EVIDENT DEVICE



(57) Abstract: There is disclosed a tamper-evident device (1, 101, 201) for a closure assembly adapted to be applied to a mouth of a container (3), for example, a neck of a bottle. There has been identified a need for an improved tamper-evident device which does not have any parts which are removed upon initial opening and which are liable to be reattached by counterfeits or the like. Accordingly the present invention provides a tamper-evident device (1, 101, 201) comprising a sleeve member (5, 105, 205) which comprises a first portion (10, 110, 220) associated with a second portion (15, 115, 215) by means of a frangible portion (10, 110, 220) therebetween, and wherein said first portion (10, 110, 210) is adapted to be applied to a mouth and neck portion (4) of a container (3), and said second portion (15, 115, 215) is associated with a container closure member (35, 135, 235), and wherein an initial container opening operation causes said frangible portion (20, 120, 220) to fracture or break such that when the container (3) is reclosed said first and second portions (10, 110, 210) are located in a spaced apart relationship to one another.